

IN HONOR OF AVA BERRY TURNER
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated individual, a proud veteran, and an exemplary civil servant, Ms. Ava Berry Turner. She is retiring after almost thirty-five years of dedicated service to her country.

Ms. Turner has served her country in a number of ways over the last four decades. In 1974, she enlisted in the U.S. Army, where she rose through the ranks to serve as a Supply Sergeant. She honed her excellent communication skills in the Army and became an Army communications specialist. She was honorably discharged in 1980, and then went on to pursue academic endeavors, utilizing benefits under the GI bill.

In 1982, she enrolled at the North Carolina Central University in Durham. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1985, majoring in Public Administration, with a minor in Business Administration, and then began work at the Internal Revenue Service. She rose through the ranks of the IRS, starting her career as a Revenue Officer and advancing to the position of Bankruptcy Specialist. From there, she became Assistant Problem Resolution Officer, then Problem Resolution Officer. She was appointed to serve as the Local Taxpayer Advocate for the State of Arizona, then promoted to the national headquarters of the Taxpayer Advocate Office in Washington, DC, where she was the Manager in Systemic Advocacy, followed by appointment as the Manager in the office of Low Income Tax Payer Clinics.

Using her exceptional communication and management skills, she now serves as a Senior Program Analyst in Technical Analysis and Guidance. Her colleagues describe her work as outstanding, and her accomplishments are the result of years of hard work and dedication to her chosen profession.

There is no doubt that her service will continue, even into her retirement. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues at the Internal Revenue Service. It will be difficult to replace her, but her incredible work ethic is an inspiration to those who have served with her.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you today to congratulate Ms. Ava Berry Turner on her retirement and to thank her for her many years of distinguished service to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am recorded as voting "aye" on rollcall vote No. 344; this was inadvertent. I intended to vote "no," as I do not support Congressman HUNTER's amendment (#12) to H.R. 1540. Amendment #12 would create a five-year pilot program to provide school vouchers set at \$7,500.00 to dependent children with special

needs for the purpose of attending a public, private, or charter school of choice.

Because I oppose this initiative, I ask the record to reflect my intention to vote as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 344, I intended to vote "no." Hunter Amendment (#11) to H.R. 1540.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPE-
DITING AGRICULTURE THROUGH
SCIENCE (EATS) ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of great importance to family farmers and agricultural businesses. The world's population is predicted to be 9.1 billion by 2050, greatly straining the world's food supply. Family Farmers across this country will lead the world in the production of a safe, secure food supply. In order for tomorrow's agriculture community to meet the need of an ever growing population, we must have a clearly defined timetable for agriculture's biotechnology approval process, while ensuring the safety of our environment. This reason for this is simple; it is the law of supply and demand. As demand for food rises, more efficient, higher yielding crops, which are more resistant to weeds and pests will be needed to feed 9.1 billion people. Providing a defined timetable for the approval process of agriculture biotechnology will provide certainty to make decisions and encourage companies to make investments in biotechnology products, which in turn will create jobs and provide the United States with the ability to meet the world's food needs.

The Plant Protection Act of 2000 (7 USC §7701 et seq.) as amended, directs the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to regulate biotech organisms and plants in order to ensure no biotech product poses a risk to the environment. However, the regulatory uncertainty created by APHIS not following their own timetable hinders job creation and stifles innovative agriculture breakthroughs that will lead to a safer, more secure food supply. That is why I am proud to introduce the Expediting Agriculture Through Science Act, otherwise known as the EATS Act, which clearly defines the amount of time to approve or deny a petition for non-regulated status for biotech crops. Countries throughout the world are developing and implementing biotech crops that produce more and cost less. In today's global economy, Congress must act quickly to ensure family farmers in the United States maintain their superiority in the biotech field and continue to compete globally.

A clearly defined timetable to approve a petition for biotech crops allows businesses to plan and invest in the biotech field while maintaining the protections needed to ensure any biotech product introduced into the environment poses no threat to the environment. The EATS Act will simply codify the current time limit in §340.6 of the Federal Code of Regulations, which is currently 180 days. Under current agency practice, APHIS is not following the 180 day time limit for approval or denial of the petition. The EATS Act gives APHIS 180

days to approve or deny a petition for non-regulated status with an additional 60 days if needed to ensure the safety of our environment and compliance is met before deeming the petition approved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the EATS Act in order to ensure the agricultural community can compete globally and meet the food supply needs of the world.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST
HOSPITAL IN JOHNSON CITY,
TENNESSEE

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary earlier this month of the construction of the first hospital in Johnson City, Tennessee. Johnson City Memorial Hospital opened on May 10, 1911, as a 10-bed facility in a white, wooden-framed house. High demand for medical care would lead to larger facilities, culminating with Johnson City Medical Center.

Today, JCMC serves 29 counties and a population of more than 1.1 million people in four states with its Level 1 trauma program, the region's top heart program, a comprehensive cancer center, the region's state-designated perinatal center, and Wings Air Rescue.

This facility, and the evolution of health care in Northeast Tennessee, illustrates the effect of consumer demand on health care, and its power to improve it. It did not take a 2,000 page bill for this network to evolve. Instead, medical professionals and members of the local community did what was necessary to meet changing needs. I congratulate Johnson City Medical Center on its 100 year anniversary, and wish it further success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, from Wednesday, May 25 until Thursday, May 26 at 3 p.m., I was unavoidably detained in Chicago, Illinois for personal reasons, and missed recorded votes for H. Res. 276, and H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

If present, I would have recorded my votes as the following: on rollcall vote 341 "no"; on rollcall vote 342 "no"; on rollcall vote 343 "aye"; on rollcall vote 344 "no"; on rollcall vote 345 "aye"; on rollcall vote 346 "aye"; on rollcall vote 347 "no"; on rollcall vote 348 "aye"; on rollcall vote 349 "aye"; on rollcall vote 350 "aye"; on rollcall vote 351 "aye"; on rollcall vote 352 "aye"; on rollcall vote 353 "aye"; on rollcall vote 354 "no"; on rollcall vote 355 "no"; on rollcall vote 356 "aye"; on rollcall vote 357 "no"; on rollcall vote 358 "aye"; on rollcall vote 359 "no"; on rollcall vote 360 "aye"; on rollcall vote 361 "aye"; on